

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2008

Chairman Colin Peterson
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Bob Goodlatte
House Committee on Agriculture
1305 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Tom Harkin
Senate Agriculture Committee
SR-328 A
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss
Senate Agriculture Committee
SR-328 A
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Peterson and Harkin and Ranking Members Goodlatte and Chambliss:

As members outraged by the operation of puppy mills both in the U.S. and abroad, we commend the Senate's for including provisions (S.A.3619) that will prohibit the U.S. import of puppies for commercial sale from foreign puppy mills in its version of the 2007 Farm Bill. We now request that this language be included in the final version of the Conference Report for H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007.

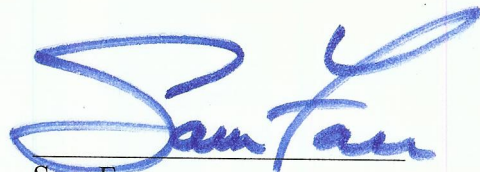
The Senate included provisions to require that any dog imported into the U.S. for commercial sale be, 1) in good health; 2) vaccinated and; 3) at least 6 months old. These regulations ensure that physically immature and potentially un-weaned puppies are not forced to endure harsh, long-distance transport and that consumers are not unknowingly subjected to buying unhealthy pups. The legislation also includes an exception to these regulations if a puppy is imported for research purposes or veterinary treatment and requires the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Commerce and Homeland Security to collaborate on the implementation and enforcement of the new regulations.

Clearly, this issue not only raises animal welfare concerns, but poses a threat to consumer confidence and public health. For these reasons we request your inclusion the puppy importation provisions in the 2007 Farm Bill Conference Report.

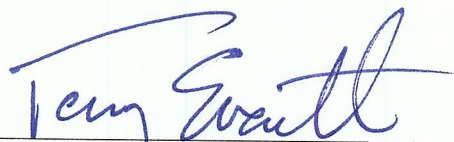
Sincerely,



Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Terry Everett
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Shelley Berkley

Wick Ferguson

Jan Schakowsky

Charles A. Foyalty

Jim McDermott

John W. Ober

Linda J. Sney

Thaddy McCarty

Betty Sutton

C. F. D. Dubois Rappaskegus

R. A. Mure

Rob Van Hatten

Betty McCollum

Lois Capps

Chris Shays

Judy Biggert

Pat DeFazio

Howard L. Berman

George Miller

William R. W. Shultz

Rosa L. DeLauro

Lynn Woolsey

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Jim Moran

Shirley M. Lowmy

Carolyn B. Maloney

John A. L. Brink

Allan R. Wynn

Baryrank

Arnold Nadler

Ed Whitfield

Garth Payer

Man Kirby